

The triton with long-range chiral N^3LO three nucleon forces

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Abstract

Long-range contributions to the three-nucleon force that have been recently worked out in chiral effective field theory at next-to-next-to-next-to-leading order are for the first time included in the triton and the doublet nucleon-deuteron scattering length calculations. The strengths of the two short-range terms available at this order in the chiral expansion are determined from the triton binding energy and the neutron-deuteron doublet scattering length. The structure of the resulting three-nucleon force is explored and effects for the two-nucleon correlation function in the triton are investigated. Expectation values of the individual contributions to the three-nucleon force in the triton are found to be in the range from a few 100 keV to about 1 MeV. Our study demonstrates that the very complicated operator structure of the novel chiral three-nucleon forces can be successively implemented in three-nucleon Faddeev calculations.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Chiral effective field theory (EFT) provides a powerful framework to systematically describe low-energy dynamics of few- and many-nucleon systems. Various variants of effective theories for nuclear forces have been explored, see [1–3] for recent review articles. Up to now, the most advanced few-nucleon studies have been carried out within a framework based on pions and nucleons as the only explicit degrees of freedom taken into account in the effective Lagrangian. Within this approach, the nucleon-nucleon (NN) force is currently available up to next-to-next-to-next-to leading order ($N^3\text{LO}$) in the chiral expansion. At this chiral order, it receives contributions from one-, two- and three-pion exchange diagrams as well as short-range NN contact interactions with up to four derivatives. As demonstrated in Refs. [4, 5], NN phase shifts are accurately described at $N^3\text{LO}$ up to laboratory energies of the order of 200 MeV. The theoretical uncertainty due to truncation of the chiral expansion is estimated in Ref. [4] by means of a cutoff variation. Within the spectral function regularization (SFR) framework [6] adopted in Ref. [4], the NN potential depends on two ultraviolet cutoffs $\bar{\Lambda}$ and Λ . The first one removes large-mass components in the spectrum of the two-pion exchange potential which cannot be correctly described within the chiral EFT framework while the other one provides regularization of the Lippmann-Schwinger equation. Five different combinations of these cut-off parameters are available for the NN potentials of Ref. [4]. The residual dependence of low-energy observables on the cutoff choice provides a measure of the importance of higher-order contact interactions and thus may serve as an estimate of the theoretical uncertainty.

Parallel to these developments three-nucleon force (3NF) has also been explored within the framework of chiral effective field theory. The first nonvanishing contributions to the 3NF emerge at next-to-next-to-leading order ($N^2\text{LO}$) [7] from the two-pion exchange and one-pion-exchange-contact diagrams as well as the purely short-range derivative-less three-nucleon contact interaction [7], see also Ref. [8] for a pioneering work along this line. The resulting $N^2\text{LO}$ three-nucleon potential depends on two low-energy constants (LECs) D and E accompanying the short-range πNN and NNN vertices, respectively. The values of these LECs need to be fixed from a fit to few-nucleon data. Among a few possible observables that have been used in this connection are the triton binding energy and the nucleon-deuteron doublet scattering length $^2a_{nd}$ [7, 9], α -particle binding energy [10, 11], the properties of light nuclei [12] and the triton beta decay [13]. The $N^2\text{LO}$ 3NF of [7] was successfully used in three-body calculations, see Refs. [14, 15] for a few examples of recent studies. At this order, chiral EFT yields a good description of elastic scattering and deuteron breakup observables up to energies of about ≈ 50 MeV. The accuracy of the results in this regime is comparable with the one that is achieved by realistic phenomenological NN and 3N interactions such as e.g. AV18 [16] 2NF in combination with UrbanaIX [17] 3NF or CD-Bonn [18] 2NF in combination with the Tucson-Melbourne [19] 3NF, see [14, 20]. However, the spread of the results is relatively large for some spin observables which clearly calls for the inclusion of new terms of the nuclear interaction that occur at higher orders of the chiral expansion.

Subleading contributions to the 3NF are currently being investigated by several groups. At $N^3\text{LO}$, one has to take into account (irreducible) contributions emerging from all possible one-loop three-nucleon diagrams constructed with the lowest order vertices. In addition, there are (tree-level) leading relativistic corrections, see [21] for an early work on the longest-range relativistic corrections. Note that the tree diagrams involving higher-order vertices from the effective chiral Lagrangian do not produce any irreducible pieces. Effects due

to two-pion exchange 3NF in elastic nucleon-deuteron scattering were already explored by Ishikawa and Robilotta [22] within a hybrid approach and found to be rather small. The $N^3\text{LO}$ contributions feed into five different topologies as will be explained in detail in the next section. The explicit expressions both in momentum and in coordinate space for the long-range contributions have already been worked out [22, 23]. Their inclusion in numerical few-body calculations appears to be challenging due to the very rich and complicated operator structure. The large number of terms in the 3NF at $N^3\text{LO}$, see Ref. [23], requires an efficient method of performing the partial wave decomposition. Recently such a method has been proposed [24] and tested for the Tucson-Melbourne force [25]. Here and in what follows, this approach will be referred to as the automatized partial wave decomposition (aPWD). In this paper we apply this method of the numerical partial wave decomposition to the $N^3\text{LO}$ 3NF contributions derived in [23]. For the first time, the parts of 3NF at $N^3\text{LO}$ different from the two-pion exchange force are included in the triton and the scattering length calculations. In order to test the implementations and get a first hint to possible effects of these forces, we fix the two LECs entering the 3NF from the triton binding energy and the nucleon-deuteron doublet scattering length and explore the effects due to these novel 3NF terms by computing the ^3H properties. Although this calculations is still incomplete since not all 3NF contributions at $N^3\text{LO}$ are taken into account, it provides an important first step towards the complete $N^3\text{LO}$ analysis of 3N scattering and demonstrates our ability to numerically handle the rather complicated structure of the subleading chiral 3NF.

Our paper is organized as follows. In Sect. II we describe briefly the structure of the chiral 3NF at $N^3\text{LO}$. In Sect. III we discuss in detail the partial wave decomposition needed in our scattering and bound-state calculations. Next, the procedure of fixing the LECs is described in Sect. IV where also the obtained values of LECs are listed. These results are used in Sect. V to explore some properties of the triton. Finally, our findings are summarized in Sec. VI.

II. 3NF AT $N^3\text{LO}$

The subleading (i.e. $N^3\text{LO}$) contributions to the three-nucleon force V_{123} can be written in the form [23]

$$V_{123} = V_{2\pi} + V_{2\pi-1\pi} + V_{ring} + V_{1\pi-cont} + V_{2\pi-cont} + V_{1/m} . \quad (2.1)$$

where the individual terms refer, in order, to the two-pion exchange, two-pion-one-pion-exchange, ring (i.e. one pion being exchanged between each of the three nucleon pairs), one-pion-exchange-contact and two-pion-exchange-contact contributions as well as the leading relativistic corrections, see Fig. 1 of Ref. [23] for a diagrammatic representation. The expressions for the (static) long-range part of the 3NF given by the first three terms in the above equation have been worked out in heavy-baryon chiral perturbation theory in Ref.[23]. The two-pion exchange contribution at the one-loop level has also been calculated within the infrared-regularized version of chiral perturbation theory in Ref. [22]. The shorter-range contributions involving two-nucleon contact interactions and relativistic corrections are currently being worked out [26].

While the two-pion-exchange $V_{2\pi}$ and one-pion-exchange-contact parts $V_{1\pi-cont}$ already occur at $N^2\text{LO}$ and receive corrections at $N^3\text{LO}$, the remaining topologies first emerge at $N^3\text{LO}$. It is important to emphasize that all subleading contributions to the 3NF are

parameter-free. Thus, the low-energy constants D and E entering the one-pion-exchange-contact and the purely short-range parts of the 3NF at N²LO are the only unknown parameters up to N³LO .

Here and in what follows, we adopt the notation in which a given 3NF V_{123} is decomposed into three terms

$$V_{123} = V^{(1)} + V^{(2)} + V^{(3)} , \quad (2.2)$$

where each $V^{(i)}$ is symmetrical under interchanging the nucleons j and k ($i, j, k = 1, 2, 3$, $i \neq j \neq k$). Clearly, this condition does not specify $V^{(1)}$ uniquely. In the following we choose $V^{(1)}$ in such a way that the number of operator structures is minimized which is convenient for the aPWD.

The operator structure of the 2π exchange part $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}$ at N³LO remains the same as at N²LO

$$V_{2\pi}^{(1)} = F_1 \vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_2 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \vec{\tau}_2 \cdot \vec{\tau}_3 + F_2 \vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_2 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \vec{q}_2 \times \vec{q}_3 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_1 \vec{\tau}_2 \times \vec{\tau}_3 \cdot \vec{\tau}_1, \quad (2.3)$$

where \vec{q}_i is the momentum transfer to the i -th nucleon, $\vec{q}_1 + \vec{q}_2 + \vec{q}_3 = 0$ and $\vec{\sigma}_i$ ($\vec{\tau}_i$) are Pauli spin (isospin) matrices for nucleon i . The scalar functions $F_1 = F_1(q_2, q_3, \hat{q}_2 \cdot \hat{q}_3)$ and $F_2 = F_2(q_2, q_3, \hat{q}_2 \cdot \hat{q}_3)$ depend on the LECs $\tilde{c}_{1,3,4}$ which accompany the subleading pion-nucleon vertices. Chiral expansion of F_1 and F_2 up to N³LO has the form [23]

$$F_1 = \frac{g_A^4}{4F_\pi^4} \frac{(-4\tilde{c}_1 M_\pi^2 + 2\tilde{c}_3 \vec{q}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_3)}{(q_2^2 + M_\pi^2)(q_3^2 + M_\pi^2)} + \tilde{F}_1 \quad (2.4)$$

$$F_2 = \frac{g_A^4}{4F_\pi^4} \frac{\tilde{c}_4}{(q_2^2 + M_\pi^2)(q_3^2 + M_\pi^2)} + \tilde{F}_2 , \quad (2.5)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}_1 = & \frac{g_A^4}{128\pi F_\pi^6} \frac{1}{(q_2^2 + M_\pi^2)(q_3^2 + M_\pi^2)} (M_\pi(M_\pi^2 + 3q_2^2 + 3q_3^2 + 4\vec{q}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_3) \\ & + (2M_\pi^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 + 2\vec{q}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_3)(3M_\pi^2 + 3q_2^2 + 3q_3^2 + 4\vec{q}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_3) A(|\vec{q}_2 + \vec{q}_3|)) \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

$$\tilde{F}_2 = \frac{-g_A^4}{128\pi F_\pi^6} \frac{1}{(q_2^2 + M_\pi^2)(q_3^2 + M_\pi^2)} (M_\pi + (4M_\pi^2 + q_2^2 + q_3^2 + 2\vec{q}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_3) A(|\vec{q}_2 + \vec{q}_3|)) , \quad (2.7)$$

where the loop function $A(q)$ is defined as

$$A(q) = \frac{1}{2q} \arctan \frac{q}{2M_\pi} . \quad (2.8)$$

The axial-vector coupling constant, the weak pion decay constant and the pion mass are denoted as g_A , F_π and M_π , respectively. Note that SFR changes $A(q)$ (see [6]). For the study here we do not need to consider this change since they differ only by higher order polynomials [1]. The quantities \tilde{c}_i appearing in the above expressions are related to the N²LO LECs c_i entering the effective chiral Lagrangian via

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{c}_1 &= c_1 - \frac{g_A^2 M_\pi}{64\pi F_\pi^2} = -0.94 \text{ GeV}^{-1} \\ \tilde{c}_3 &= c_3 + \frac{g_A^4 M_\pi}{16\pi F_\pi^2} = -2.51 \text{ GeV}^{-1} \\ \tilde{c}_4 &= c_4 - \frac{g_A^4 M_\pi}{16\pi F_\pi^2} = 2.51 \text{ GeV}^{-1} , \end{aligned}$$

where we have adopted the values for the c_i from Ref. [4], namely

$$c_1 = -0.81 \text{ GeV}^{-1}, \quad c_3 = -3.40 \text{ GeV}^{-1}, \quad c_4 = 3.40 \text{ GeV}^{-1}. \quad (2.9)$$

These values are consistent with the ones determined from pion-nucleon scattering [27]. The finite shifts of the LECs c_i in Eq. (2.9) emerge from pion loops at N³LO.

The $V_{2\pi-1\pi}^{(1)}$ interaction at N³LO has the following operator structure

$$\begin{aligned} V_{2\pi-1\pi}^{(1)} = & \frac{\vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_1}{q_1^2 + M_\pi^2} \left[\boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 (\vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_2 \vec{q}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_1 F_1(q_2) + \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_2 F_2(q_2) + \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_1 F_3(q_2)) \right. \\ & + \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 (\vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_2 \vec{q}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_1 F_4(q_2) + \vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_1 F_5(q_2) + \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_2 F_6(q_2) + \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_1 F_7(q_2)) \\ & \left. + \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \times \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \vec{\sigma}_2 \times \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_2 F_8(q_2) \right] + (2 \leftrightarrow 3). \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

with scalar functions $F_i(q_i)$. The interchange of nucleons ($2 \leftrightarrow 3$) refers to the interchange of momentum vectors, spin and isospin matrices and arguments of the functions F_i . Explicit expressions for the scalar functions $F_i(q_i)$ which appear in the $V_{2\pi-1\pi}^{(1)}$ can be found in Ref. [23].

The $V_{ring}^{(1)}$ force is chosen as

$$\begin{aligned} V_{ring}^{(1)} = & \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_2 \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 R_1 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 R_2 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 R_3 \\ & + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 R_4 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 R_5 + \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 R_6 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_1 R_7 \\ & + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_3 R_8 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_1 R_9 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_3 R_{10} + \vec{q}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \times \vec{\sigma}_2 \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \times \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 R_{11} \\ & + \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 S_1 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 S_2 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 S_3 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_1 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 S_4 \\ & + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 S_5 + \vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_3 \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 S_6 + \vec{q}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_3 \times \vec{\sigma}_1 \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \times \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 S_7 \\ & + (2 \leftrightarrow 3), \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

where the expressions for the scalar functions $R_i = R_i(q_1, q_3, \hat{q}_1 \cdot \hat{q}_3)$ and $S_i = S_i(q_1, q_3, \hat{q}_1 \cdot \hat{q}_3)$ can be found in Ref. [23].

The modifications of the one-pion-exchange-contact $V_{1\pi-cont}^{(1)}$ term arising at N³LO are in preparation [26]. Thus, instead of the full $V_{1\pi-cont}^{(1)}$ interaction we use the lowest-order result for it resulting at N²LO [7]:

$$V_{d-term}^{(1)} = -\frac{g_A D}{8F_\pi^2} \frac{\vec{\sigma}_1 \cdot \vec{q}_1}{q_1^2 + M_\pi^2} (\boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 \vec{\sigma}_3 \cdot \vec{q}_1 + \boldsymbol{\tau}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \vec{\sigma}_2 \cdot \vec{q}_1). \quad (2.12)$$

The low energy constant D can be expressed as $D = c_D/(F_\pi^2 \Lambda_\chi)$, where c_D is a dimensionless free parameter and the chiral symmetry breaking scale Λ_χ is estimated to be $\Lambda_\chi = 700 \text{ MeV}$. Here and in what follows, we use $F_\pi = 92.4 \text{ MeV}$ for the pion decay constant. The value of c_D has to be determined from experimental data. This is described in section IV for our fit for the test case of this study. Of course, results of this fit will significantly change when the complete short range interaction is taken into account.

As already pointed out above, the remaining terms $V_{2\pi-cont}^{(1)}$ and $V_{1/m}^{(1)}$ are also not available yet [26] and thus cannot be taken into account in the present study. Finally, the purely short-range part of the 3NF has the form [7]:

$$V_{e-term}^{(1)} = E \boldsymbol{\tau}_2 \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_3. \quad (2.13)$$

Again, the LEC E is usually expressed in terms of a dimension-less parameter c_E via $E = c_E/(F_\pi^4 \Lambda_\chi)$ which needs to be determined from (at least) three-nucleon data.

To summarize, in this paper we use the $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}$, $V_{2\pi-1\pi}^{(1)}$, $V_{ring}^{(1)}$ N³LO terms combined with the $V_{d-term}^{(1)}$ and $V_{e-term}^{(1)}$ terms at N²LO. The N³LO contributions to $V_{1\pi-cont}^{(1)}$ and $V_{2\pi-cont}^{(1)}$ and relativistic corrections $V_{1/m}^{(1)}$ are not included. Finally, the remaining terms $V^{(2)}$ and $V^{(3)}$ of Eq. (2.2) can be obtained from $V^{(1)}$ by appropriate permutations of nucleons.

III. NUMERICAL CALCULATIONS OF 3NF MATRIX ELEMENTS

We work in the momentum space using three-nucleon partial-wave states $|p, q, \alpha\rangle$ in the jJ -coupling [28, 29]

$$|p, q, \alpha\rangle \equiv |pq(ls)j(\lambda \frac{1}{2})I(jI)JM_J\rangle | (t \frac{1}{2})TM_T\rangle, \quad (3.1)$$

where p and q are magnitudes of the standard Jacobi momenta and α denotes a set of discrete quantum numbers defined in the following way: the spin s of the subsystem composed from nucleons 2 and 3 is coupled with their orbital angular momentum l to the total angular momentum j . The spin $1/2$ of the spectator particle 1 couples with its relative orbital angular momentum λ to the total angular momentum I of nucleon 1. Finally, j and I are coupled to the total 3N angular momentum J with the projection M_J . For the isospin part, the total isospin t of the subsystem (23) is coupled with the isospin $1/2$ of the spectator nucleon to the total 3N isospin T with the projection M_T .

The matrix elements of $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}$, $V_{2\pi-1\pi}^{(1)}$ and $V_{ring}^{(1)}$ forces in the basis $|p, q, \alpha\rangle$ are obtained using the recently proposed aPWD method [24, 25]. In this approach the spin-momentum and isospin parts of three-nucleon interactions are calculated using a software for symbolic calculations. The resulting momentum-dependent functions are then integrated numerically in five dimensions over angular variables. The major advantage of this method is its generality. It can be applied to *any* momentum-spin-isospin operator including, in particular, the full operator structure of the 3NF at N³LO including even the non-local relativistic corrections. The only complication emerges in the treatment of the ring contributions to the 3NF due to rather complex expressions for the functions $R_i = R_i(q_1, q_3, \hat{q}_1 \cdot \hat{q}_3)$ and $S_i = S_i(q_1, q_3, \hat{q}_1 \cdot \hat{q}_3)$ which involve certain scalar integrals related to the three-point function. For any given values of the arguments, these integrals have to be computed numerically. This evaluation is too expensive to be carried out on-the-fly during the aPWD. Moreover, while the functions R_i and S_i are, of course, finite and smooth for all possible values of their arguments, they are given in Ref. [23] as linear combinations of terms, some of which are becoming singular under certain kinematical conditions. Their numerical implementation therefore requires special care. In order to deal with these difficulties, we first evaluate the functions R_i and S_i at a (fixed) dense grid of points for their arguments and then use interpolation to compute them for arbitrary values of q_1 , q_3 and $\hat{q}_1 \cdot \hat{q}_3$ as needed in the aPWD approach. We have carefully checked the stability of this procedure by increasing the density of the grid points. Finally, the partial wave decomposition of $V_{d-term}^{(1)}$ and $V_{e-term}^{(1)}$ is performed with the standard techniques [7] but also verified with the new method.

Examples of the resulting matrix elements $\langle p', q', \alpha' | V_i^{(1)} | p, q, \alpha \rangle$ are given in Fig. 1 as a function of the momentum p . Here, we fix the momenta to be $p' = 0.268 \text{ fm}^{-1}$, $q' = 2.842$

α	l	s	j	λ	I	t
1	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
4	1	0	1	1	$\frac{3}{2}$	0
5	0	1	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
7	2	1	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0

TABLE I: The values of the discrete quantum numbers for the selected α states (3.1) with the total angular momentum $J = 1/2$, the total isospin $T = 1/2$ and its projection $M_T = -1/2$.

fm^{-1} and $q = 0.132 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ and consider the following four channel combinations: $(\alpha' = \alpha = 1)$, $(\alpha' = 1, \alpha = 5)$, $(\alpha' = \alpha = 4)$ and $(\alpha' = 4, \alpha = 7)$. These channels correspond to the quantum numbers given in Tab. I. Channels $\alpha = 1$ and $\alpha = 5$ are especially important since those two states provide the dominant components of the ^3H wave function. As can be noticed, all three components of the N³LO 3NF give a strong contribution: the $V_{ring}^{(1)}$ dominates for the channel combination $(\alpha' = \alpha = 1)$, $V_{2\pi-1\pi}^{(1)}$ for $(\alpha' = 1, \alpha = 5)$ and $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}$ for $(\alpha' = \alpha = 4)$ and $(\alpha' = 4, \alpha = 7)$. We emphasize, however, that the large size of these matrix elements (which contain certain admixtures of short-range operators) as compared to the N²LO terms does not necessarily imply that their effects in low-energy observables are large. The values of the LECs for $V_{d-term}^{(1)}$ and $V_{e-term}^{(1)}$ terms shown in Fig. 1 are set to be $c_D = 1$ and $c_E = 1$ in order to allow for a qualitative comparison of the strength of the individual terms. Their real contributions emerging after fitting the LECs c_D and c_E to experimental data will be discussed in the next section. Fig. 1 also clearly demonstrates that not all terms contribute to each channel combination due to the spin-isospin dependence. The $V_{2\pi-1\pi}^{(1)}$ and $V_{d-term}^{(1)}$ terms contribute to $V^{(1)}$ only to $(\alpha' = 1, \alpha = 5)$ and the $V_{e-term}^{(1)}$ term only contributes to $(\alpha' = \alpha = 1)$. Further, $V_{ring}^{(1)}$ vanishes for $\alpha' = \alpha = 4$.

The component $V^{(1)}$ of V_{123} enters the dynamical equations for 3N bound and scattering states [29, 30] (see below) only in combination with the permutation operator P forming the operator $V^{(1)}(1 + P)$. The permutation operator $P \equiv P_{12}P_{23} + P_{13}P_{23}$ is built from the transpositions P_{ij} , which interchange nucleons i and j . The aPWD scheme can be used to obtain directly the $V^{(1)}(1 + P)$ matrix elements [25] which allows us to avoid uncertainties associated with the partial wave decomposition of the permutation operator. The resulting matrix elements $\langle p', q', \alpha' | V^{(1)}(1 + P) | p, q, \alpha \rangle$ are given in Fig. 2 for the same momenta and channel combinations as in Fig. 1. Again, we observe that matrix elements of all contributions to the 3NF are large for these momenta. The $V_{ring}^{(1)}$ contribution is particularly large in matrix elements with $\alpha' = 1$. For these channels also $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}$ and $V_{2\pi-1\pi}^{(1)}$ are significant. Moreover for $\alpha' = \alpha = 1$ also $V_{d-term}^{(1)}$ and $V_{e-term}^{(1)}$ are non-negligible, at least with $c_D = 1$ and $c_E = 1$. For $\alpha' = 4$, the $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}$ piece dominates. Nevertheless in the case of $\alpha = 7$ also $V_{ring}^{(1)}$ provides a significant contribution. Due to their spin-isospin structure the $V_{d-term}^{(1)}$ and $V_{e-term}^{(1)}$ forces are absent for $(\alpha' = \alpha = 4)$ and $(\alpha' = 4, \alpha = 7)$ channel combinations.

The 2π -exchange contribution at N³LO can be compared with a corresponding part of the N²LO interaction. The example is given in Fig. 3, where the dashed (solid) line represents the predictions obtained at N²LO (N³LO). The $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}(1 + P)$ matrix elements differ significantly for all considered channel pairs. Fig. 3 demonstrates that these differences mainly originate from the parts of the $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}$ interaction proportional to the \tilde{F}_1 and \tilde{F}_2 formfactors,

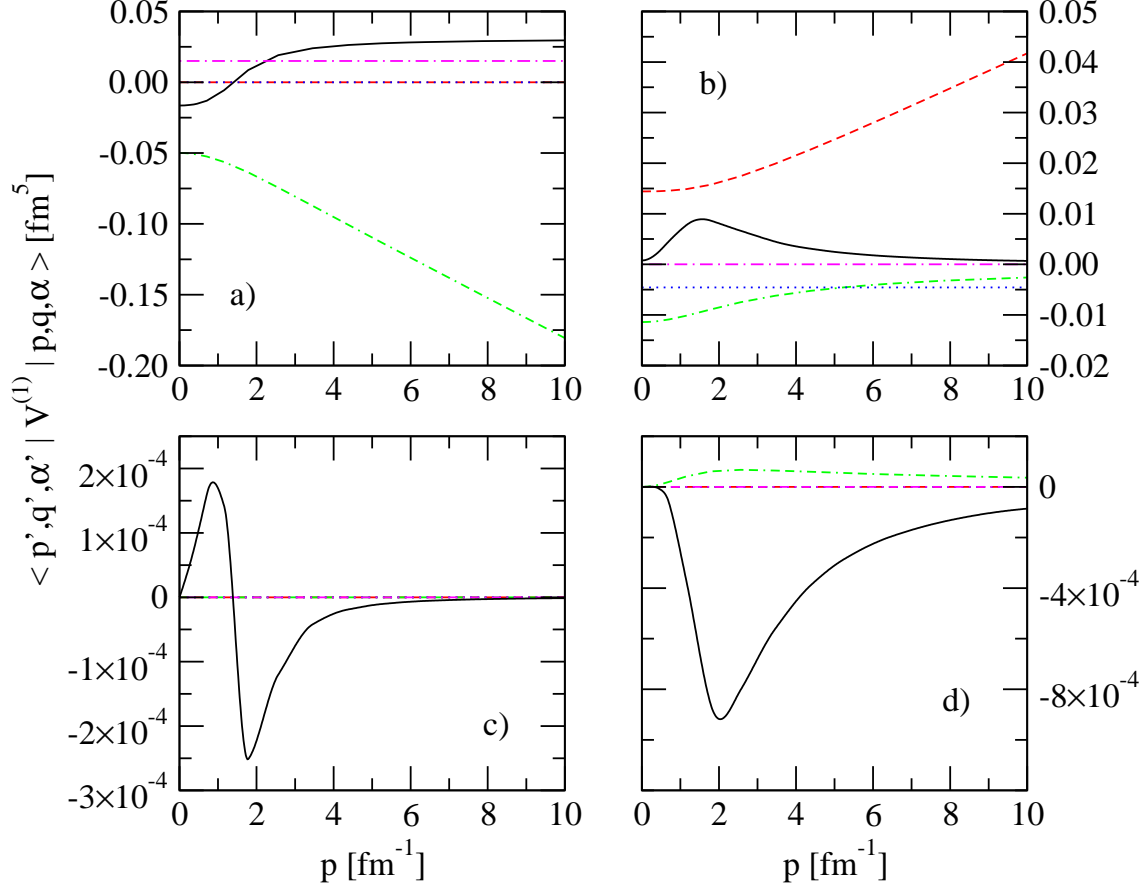


FIG. 1: (Color online) The N³LO 3NF matrix elements (before regularization) $\langle p', q', \alpha' | V^{(1)} | p, q, \alpha \rangle$ as a function of the momentum p for $p' = 0.268 \text{ fm}^{-1}$, $q' = 2.842 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ and $q = 0.132 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ and different combinations (α', α) : a) (1,1), b) (1,5), c) (4,4) and d) (4,7). The solid (black), dashed (red), double-dash-dotted (green), dotted (blue) and dash-dotted (magenta) line shows the $V_{2\pi}$, $V_{2\pi-1\pi}$, V_{ring} , V_{d-term} and V_{e-term} components, respectively.

see Eqs.(2.4)-(2.5). In particular, in Fig. 3, we also show results for $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}(1+P)$ at N³LO but with \tilde{F}_1 and \tilde{F}_2 being artificially set to zero. In such a case the only difference between matrix elements at N²LO and N³LO comes from the different values of c_i and \tilde{c}_i LECs. The presented matrix elements have then a similar dependence on momentum p as well as a similar magnitude in N³LO and N²LO. Notice, however, that these observations do not necessarily imply that the N³LO corrections to the 3NF lead to large effects in low-energy three-nucleon observables. In fact, the opposite was observed in Ref.[22] for the case of the two-pion exchange topology.

The $V_i^{(1)}$ and $V_i^{(1)}(1+P)$ matrix elements shown in Figs. 1 and 2 have to be regularized prior to being used as input to the dynamical equations [7]. We use the regulator function of the form [1]

$$f(p, q) = \exp \frac{-(4p^2 + 3q^2)^3}{(4\Lambda^2)^3} \quad (3.2)$$

which ensures that the large momenta are sufficiently suppressed. Following Ref. [1] we use

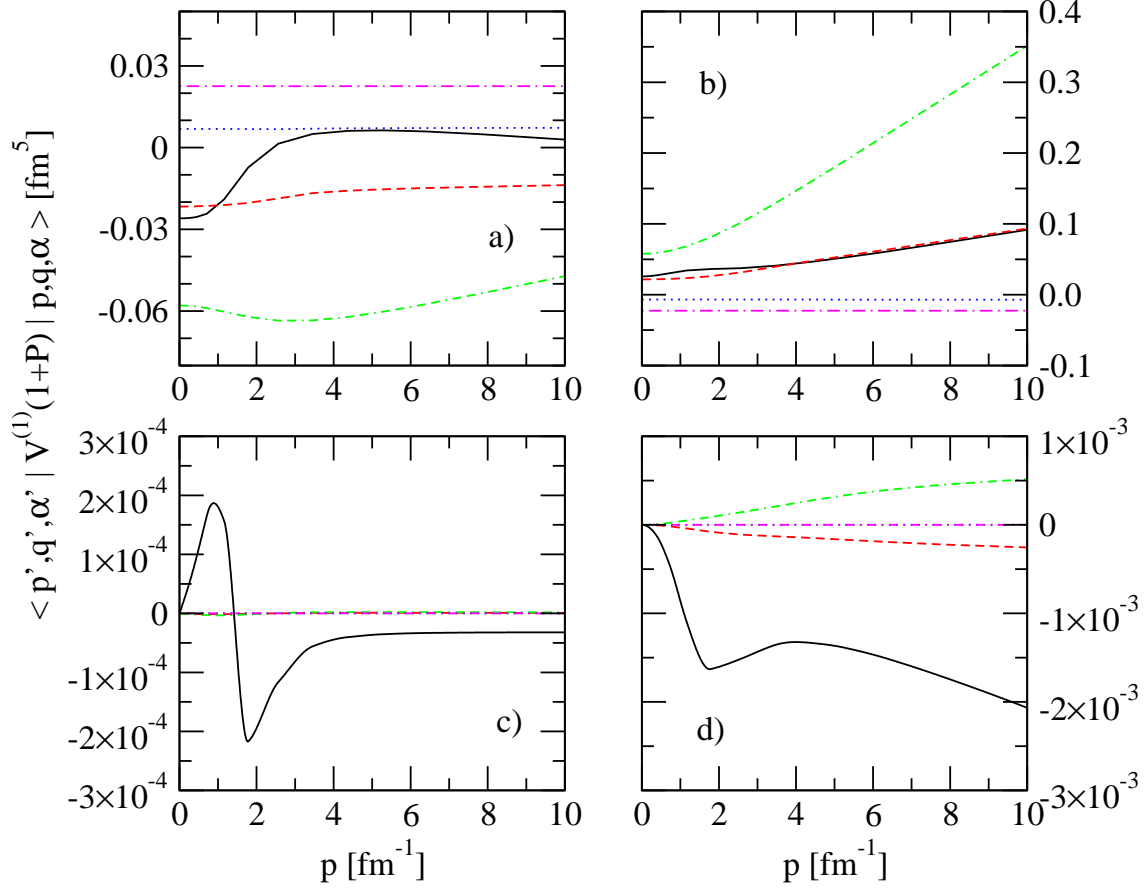


FIG. 2: (Color online) The $N^3\text{LO}$ 3NF matrix elements (before regularization) $\langle p', q', \alpha' | V^{(1)}(1+P) | p, q, \alpha \rangle$ as a function of the momentum p . The momenta p', q' and q , channel combinations (α', α) and lines are the same as in Fig. 1.

three values of Λ parameter: 450, 550 and 600 MeV. The regularization transforms matrix elements as

$$\langle p', q', \alpha' | V^{(1)}(1+P) | p, q, \alpha \rangle \rightarrow f(p', q') \langle p', q', \alpha' | V^{(1)}(1+P) | p, q, \alpha \rangle f(p, q). \quad (3.3)$$

The examples of the regularized $V^{(1)}(1+P)$ matrix elements are compared to the nonregularized ones in Fig. 4. This is done separately for $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}(1+P)$ and $V_{ring}^{(1)}(1+P)$ contributions. The momenta are $p' = q' = q = 0.132 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ (upper row) and $p' = 0.268 \text{ fm}^{-1}$, $q' = 2.842 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ and $q = 0.132 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ (lower row) and we show only the $(\alpha' = \alpha = 1)$ channel combination. In the upper row, where the momenta p', q' and q are small, all regulator functions are close to 1 for small values of p . For momenta $p > 1 \text{ fm}^{-1}$, the different Λ values lead to different slopes of matrix elements. The lowest value of the parameter $\Lambda = 450 \text{ MeV}$ forces the fastest decreasing of $V_i^{(1)}(1+P)$ matrix elements. In such a case, the short-range part of the interaction is suppressed. On the contrary, the highest value $\Lambda = 600 \text{ MeV}$ allows for larger contributions of short-range interactions. In the lower row, where the momenta p' and q' are bigger, the effects of the regularization are seen already at the low values of p . For $p = 0.001 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ the regularization factor $f(p', q')f(p, q)$ changes from 0.194 for $\Lambda = 450 \text{ MeV}$ to 0.747 for $\Lambda = 600 \text{ MeV}$. This strong cutoff dependence is expected to be largely compensated by

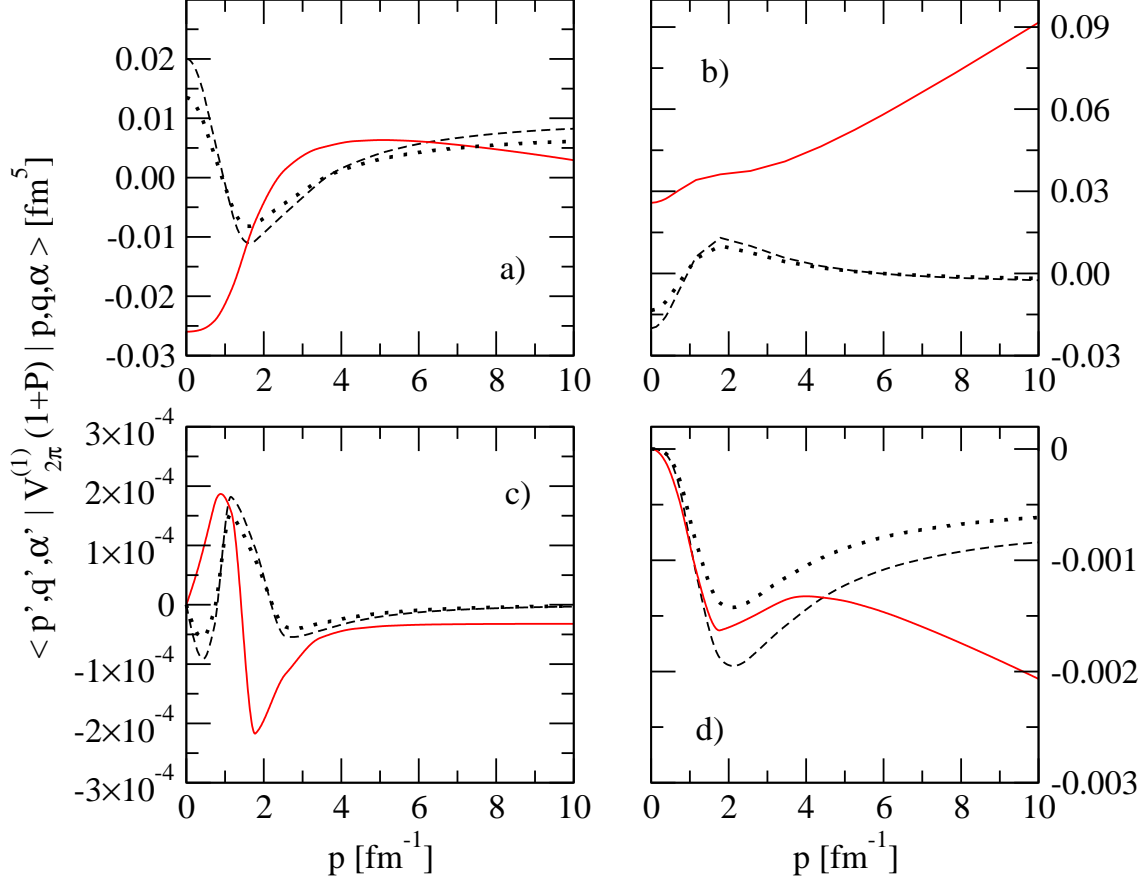


FIG. 3: (Color online) The 2π -exchange part of 3NF matrix elements (before regularization) $\langle p', q', \alpha' | V_{2\pi}^{(1)}(1+P) | p, q, \alpha \rangle$ as a function of the p momentum. The momenta p', q', q and channel combinations (α', α) are the same as in Fig. 1. The dashed (black) and solid (red) lines represent $N^2\text{LO}$ and $N^3\text{LO}$ results, respectively. The dotted (black) line describes the matrix elements of $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}(1+P)$ obtained with \tilde{F}_1 and \tilde{F}_2 set artificially to zero (see text).

an appropriate “running” of the LECs c_D and c_E when calculating low-energy observables.

IV. DETERMINATION OF THE LECs c_D AND c_E AT $N^3\text{LO}$.

Once the new terms are added to the 3NF, the procedure of refitting of the LECs c_D and c_E has to be repeated. We follow Ref.[7] and use the triton binding energy E^3H and the neutron-deuteron doublet scattering length $^2a_{nd}$ as two observables from which c_D and c_E can be obtained. The up-to-date experimental values are $E^3H = 8.481821(5)$ MeV [31] and $^2a_{nd} = 0.645(7)$ fm [32].

Our procedure to fix the values of LECs can be divided into two steps. First, the dependence of E^3H on c_E for a given value of c_D is determined. The requirement to reproduce the experimental value of the triton binding energy yields a set of combinations c_D and c_E . This set is then used in the calculations of $^2a_{nd}$ what allows us to find which pair of c_D and c_E describes both observables simultaneously. Such a procedure has to be repeated for all Λ -values used in the regularization. The same values of the cutoff Λ are used to suppress

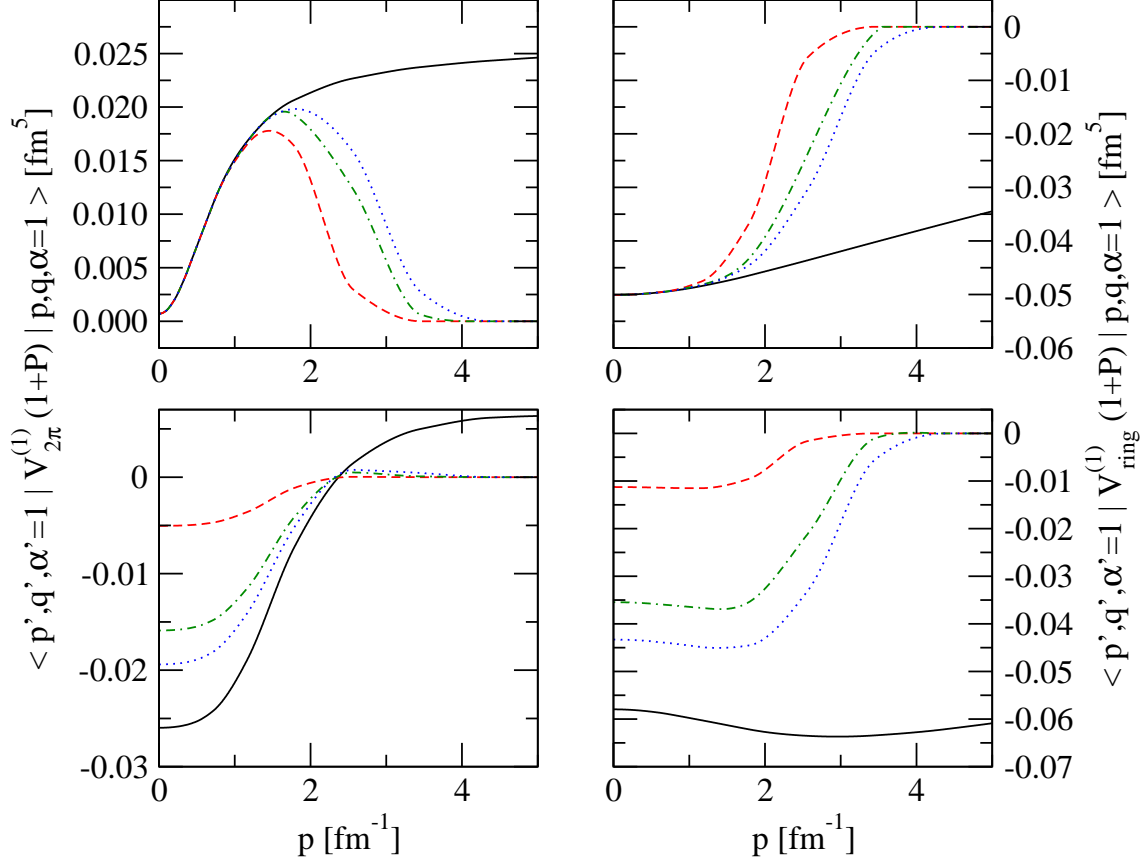


FIG. 4: (Color on-line) The N³LO 3NF matrix elements $\langle p', q', \alpha' = 1 | V_i^{(1)}(1 + P) | p, q, \alpha = 1 \rangle$ as a function of the p momentum for the momenta $p' = q' = q = 0.132 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ (top) and $p' = 0.268 \text{ fm}^{-1}$, $q' = 2.842 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ and $q = 0.132 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ (bottom). The two components of the N³LO 3NF are shown: $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}(1 + P)$ (left) and $V_{ring}^{(1)}(1 + P)$ (right). The solid (black) line represents $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}(1 + P)$ and $V_{ring}^{(1)}(1 + P)$ matrix elements before regularization. The dashed (red), dash-dotted (green) and dotted (blue) curve represents the $V_{2\pi}^{(1)}(1 + P)$ and $V_{ring}^{(1)}(1 + P)$ matrix elements regularized as in (3.3) with $\Lambda = 450, 550$ and 600 MeV , respectively.

high momenta in the NN potential in order to ensure the convergence of the integral in the Lippmann-Schwinger equation. The chiral NN potential depends, in addition, on another cut-off parameter $\tilde{\Lambda}$ emerging from the SFR of the two-pion exchange potential. We follow Ref. [1] and use five combinations of $(\Lambda, \tilde{\Lambda})$ shown in Tab. II.

We compute the ³H wave function using the method described in [30]. Here we mention only that the full triton wave function $\Psi = (1 + P)\psi$ is given by its Faddeev component ψ being the solution of the Faddeev equation

$$\psi = G_0 t P \psi + (1 + G_0 t) G_0 V^{(1)}(1 + P) \psi. \quad (4.1)$$

Here, G_0 is the free 3N propagator, P is the same permutation operator as defined above and t is the two-body t -operator generated from a given NN potential through the Lippmann-Schwinger equation.

We use the 3N states $|p, q, \alpha\rangle$ defined on the grids of 68 p -points and 48 q -points in intervals $p \in (0, 15) \text{ fm}^{-1}$ and $q \in (0, 10) \text{ fm}^{-1}$, respectively. We take into account all states

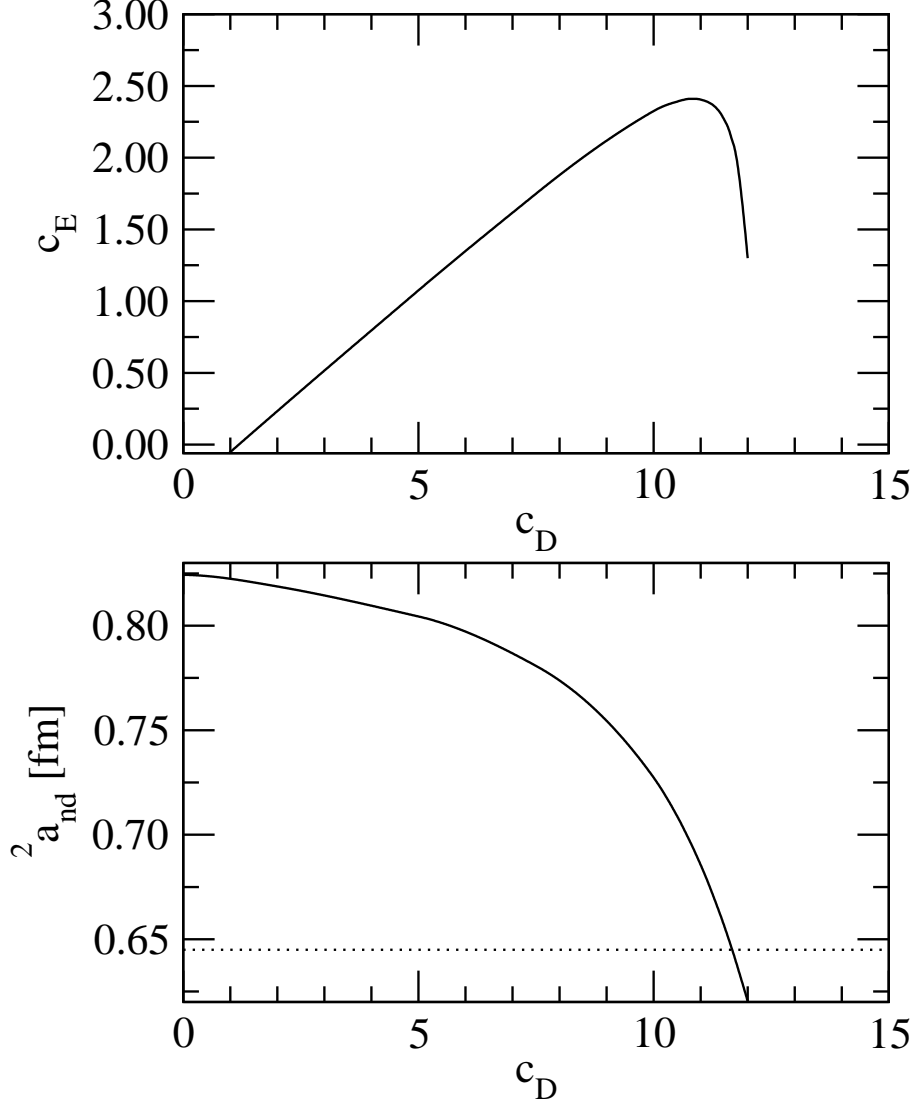


FIG. 5: (Color online) The intermediate results obtained during the fitting procedure for the c_D and c_E N³LO LECs for the 3rd cut-off combination from Tab. II: the values of the c_D and c_E LECs which give the experimental E^{3H} (top) and the dependence of $^2a_{nd}$ on c_D (bottom). The dotted line shows the experimental value $^2a_{nd}=0.645(7)$ fm [32].

up to the two-body total angular momentum $j = 5$ for the NN potential, and all states up to $j = 3$ for the 3N interaction.

We solve Eq.(4.1) and find pairs of the LECs c_D and c_E which reproduce the experimental value of E^{3H} . It is exemplified in the top panel of Fig. 5 for the 3rd cut-off combination from Tab. II. The dependence is smooth and for some values of c_E there are two possible values of c_D .

In the second step of the fitting procedure the doublet scattering length $^2a_{nd}$ is calculated for the (c_D, c_E) pairs, which reproduce the correct value of E^{3H} . To this aim we first solve the Faddeev equation for the auxiliary amplitude T at zero incoming nucleon energy,

$$T = tP\phi + (1+tG_0)V^{(1)}(1+P)\phi + tPG_0T + (1+tG_0)V^{(1)}(1+P)G_0T, \quad (4.2)$$

cut-off	$(\Lambda, \tilde{\Lambda})$	c_D	c_E
1	(450,500)	10.78	-0.172
2	(600,500)	12.00	1.254
3	(550,600)	11.67	2.120
4	(450,700)	7.21	-0.748
5	(600,700)	14.07	1.704

TABLE II: The values of c_D and c_E LECs for the different parametrizations of chiral N³LO potential.

where the initial channel state ϕ occurring in the driving terms is composed of the deuteron and a plane wave state of the projectile nucleon. The amplitude for the elastic nucleon-deuteron scattering is then given by

$$U = PG_0^{-1} + PT + V^{(1)}(1+P)\phi + V^{(1)}(1+P)G_0T. \quad (4.3)$$

We refer to [29, 33] for a general overview on 3N scattering and for more details on the practical implementation of the Faddeev equations. The expression for $^2a_{nd}$ in our basis and further technical details can be found in [34]. In this second step of the fitting procedure we use grids of 32 p points in the range $p \in (0, 25) \text{ fm}^{-1}$ and 31 q points in the range $q \in (0, 15) \text{ fm}^{-1}$. Similarly to the triton calculations, the NN (3N) potential acts in all states up to $j = 5(3)$. Our calculations are accurate up to 2 keV for the binding energy and up to 0.005 fm for the scattering length. We expect that, even in N³LO, the chiral expansion of the nuclear forces induces uncertainties that are larger than these estimates. Therefore, the numerical calculations are sufficiently accurate to perform sensible fits of c_D and c_E at N³LO.

The final values of c_D and c_E LECs, which reproduce the experimental values of E^{3H} and $^2a_{nd}$ are given in Tab. II. For all combinations of cut-off parameters, the LEC c_D remains positive with the value around 10. It weakly depends on the value of the cutoff Λ and becomes larger with increasing Λ . The second LEC c_E changes in a more complicated way. While again it is smallest in magnitude for the smallest value of Λ , its biggest value is for the medium $\Lambda=550 \text{ MeV}$ and then decreases while moving to $\Lambda=600 \text{ MeV}$. Note, that c_E changes sign so the $V_{e-term}^{(1)}$ interaction changes from attractive to repulsive. We also stress that while the value of the LEC c_D appears to be rather large, the expectation value of the one-pion-exchange-contact part of the 3NF is of a natural size. It remains to be seen whether the complete calculation including the remainig 3NF contributions at N³LO will lead to more natural values of the LEC c_D .

Finally, we would like to emphasize that the values of the LECs which are *bare* parameters must be refitted at each order in the chiral expansion (and, of course, for each cutoff combination). This is in contrast with chiral perturbation theory calculations in the Goldstone-boson and single-nucleon sectors where the scattering amplitude is usually expressed in terms of *renormalized* LECs. Indeed, using the values of c_D and c_E determined at N²LO in the N³LO calculation would generally result in a poor description of low-energy observables. For example, for the 3rd cutoff combination, the 3NF at N³LO furnished with the N²LO values $c_D = -0.45$ and $c_E = -0.798$ [1] yields $E^{3H} = -8.197 \text{ MeV}$ and $^2a_{nd} = 1.004 \text{ fm}$ which are far from the experimental values. Similarly, while the combination $c_D = 1.5744$ and $c_E = -17.8$ allows to reproduce the triton binding energy and the doublet nd scattering

cut-off	$\langle H_0 \rangle$ [MeV]	$\langle V_{NN} \rangle$ [MeV]	$\langle V_{3N} \rangle$ [MeV]
1	35.972	-43.459	-0.994
2	54.708	-61.515	-1.673
3	48.088	-55.187	-1.381
4	33.232	-41.050	-0.663
5	53.504	-60.278	-1.706

TABLE III: Expectation values $\langle H_0 \rangle$, $\langle V_{NN} \rangle$ and $\langle V_{3N} \rangle$ in the triton for different parametrizations of the chiral N³LO potential as discussed in the text.

length for N³LO NN force accompanied with the N²LO 3NF, it produces $E^{3H} = -7.542$ MeV and $^2a_{nd} = 1.4354$ fm when the N³LO 3NF is used. Note that a big value of c_E obtained in this case seems to violate naturalness. These results demonstrate clearly that fitting to the data has to be made consistently within the given order of the chiral expansion. Therefore, also the results of our test fit here, which does not include the full 3NF at N³LO, has to be taken with care. However, the fit results allows us to study the properties of ³H in the next section.

V. THE PROPERTIES OF ³H

Once the values of c_D and c_E low energy parameters are established, one can explore the properties of the ³H wave function. We begin with the expectation values of the kinetic energy $\langle H_0 \rangle$, the NN potential energy $\langle V_{NN} \rangle$ and the 3N potential energy $\langle V_{3N} \rangle$ which are listed in Tab. III. The expectation values clearly depend on the cut-off parameters Λ and $\tilde{\Lambda}$ as they should. Not surprisingly, the expectation values of both the NN potential and the 3NF are smallest for the softest cutoff $\Lambda = 450$ MeV. Higher Λ -values lead to stronger 3NF contributions to the E^{3H} which for $\Lambda = 600$ MeV reaches about $\approx 20\%$. For all cutoff values, one clearly observes the dominance of the NN forces, $\langle V_{3N} \rangle / \langle V_{NN} \rangle = 1.5 \dots 3\%$, in agreement with the expectations based on the chiral power counting. Note that the interplay of N²LO counter terms and N³LO structures of the 3NF does not allow to use these expectation values for an assessment of the contributions of N³LO 3NFs. Similarly as in the NN interaction, one observes strong cancelations of N³LO contributions also with N²LO contact interactions. Such a comparison only makes sense for renormalized quantities, which we are not able to identify here. One also observes that the dependence of the expectation values on the SFR cutoff $\tilde{\Lambda}$ is less pronounced as the Λ -dependence. For example for cutoff combinations 1 and 4, which differ only in the choice of $\tilde{\Lambda}$, the $\langle H_0 \rangle$ and $\langle V_{NN} \rangle$ differ by about 3 MeV. On the other hand, the differences reach almost 20 MeV for the cutoff combinations 1 and 2 which have the same SFR cutoff $\tilde{\Lambda}$ but different values of Λ . This holds true also for $\langle V_{3N} \rangle$.

A more detailed information about the 3NF triton expectation values is given in Tab. IV. The expectation value of the 3NF $\langle V_{3N} \rangle$ is split into the individual contributions from various topologies. The expectation value of the two-pion-exchange potential $\langle V_{2\pi} \rangle$ shows a smooth dependence with Λ . For the softest cutoff $\Lambda = 450$ MeV, the two-pion exchange 3NF turns out to be most attractive providing more than 0.5 MeV to the triton binding energy. With increasing Λ , the contribution of $V_{2\pi}$ becomes weaker. For the cutoff combination 2, $\Lambda = 600$ MeV, $\tilde{\Lambda} = 500$ MeV, the additional binding due to the two-pion exchange 3NF

cut-off	$\langle V_{2\pi} \rangle$ [MeV]	$\langle V_{2\pi-1\pi} \rangle$ [MeV]	$\langle V_{ring} \rangle$ [MeV]	$\langle V_{d-term} \rangle$ [MeV]	$\langle V_{e-term} \rangle$ [MeV]
1	-0.639	0.458	-0.147	-0.693	0.027
2	-0.241	-0.580	-1.114	0.694	-0.432
3	-0.473	0.107	-0.191	-0.708	-0.116
4	-0.771	0.539	-0.452	-0.259	0.281
5	-0.377	-0.275	-0.622	-0.119	-0.313

TABLE IV: The expectation values for the different parts of the 3N potential and for the different parametrizations of the chiral N³LO potential.

only amounts to about 240 keV. Interestingly, most of the attraction necessary to reproduce the triton binding energy is produced in this case by the ring topology, which is found to be attractive for all cutoff combinations. Contrary to the longest-range two-pion exchange topology, the contributions of the ring diagrams are enhanced for the largest value of the cutoff $\Lambda = 600$ MeV. Qualitatively, this behavior might be expected given the fact that the large values of Λ probe the shorter-range part of V_{ring} which is of the van der-Waals type, i.e. the matrix elements grow rapidly with decreasing relative distances between the nucleons. The cutoff dependence of this contribution is very large. This explicitly shows the dependence on the short distance pieces making it impossible to estimate the impact of this topology on low energy observables based on our results. The expectation value of the two-pion-one-pion-exchange topology $\langle V_{2\pi-1\pi} \rangle$ also strongly depends on Λ . It changes sign from positive for $\Lambda = 450$ MeV to negative at $\Lambda = 600$ MeV. The dependence on the SFR cutoff is fairly weak. Note however that a stronger dependence might be induced once the SFR regularized $A(q)$ has been taken into account. The $\langle V_{d-term} \rangle$ shows the most complicated behaviour. It achieves the lowest value for the intermediate value of Λ (cutoff combination 3) and, for $\Lambda = 600$ MeV, shows a strong dependence on the SFR cutoff $\tilde{\Lambda}$. In particular, for the smaller value $\tilde{\Lambda} = 500$ MeV, this contribution to the 3NF becomes repulsive and relatively big, while for $\tilde{\Lambda} = 700$ MeV the expectation value remains negative. Finally, the $\langle V_{e-term} \rangle$ expectation value changes smoothly with Λ . It also changes its sign from positive at the lowest Λ to negative at $\Lambda = 600$ MeV. Last but not least, we emphasize that the expectation values discussed above as well as the separation of the potential energy into the contributions due to the NN potential and 3NF do *not* correspond to observable quantities and are expected to show a strong cutoff dependence. Notice further that expectation values of the various 3NF contributions are, strictly speaking, bare quantities. Comparing their size with the one of the N²LO terms does, therefore, not allow to draw conclusions about the convergence of the chiral expansion [38]. It is comforting to see that all expectation values turn out to be of a reasonable size.

We now turn to the two-nucleon correlation function of ³H which is defined as [30]

$$C(r) \equiv \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d\hat{r} \langle \Psi | \sum_{i < j} \delta(\vec{r} - r_{ij}) | \Psi \rangle. \quad (5.1)$$

Here, r_{ij} is the relative distance corresponding to the Jacobi momentum \vec{p} . In Fig. 6 the correlation function is shown for the same combinations of the regularization parameters as in Tab.II. Thin lines represent predictions based on NN interactions only while thick ones show the predictions based on NN+3N forces. As expected, the softest cutoff value $\Lambda = 450$ MeV yields a more flat correlation function with the less amount of the short-range

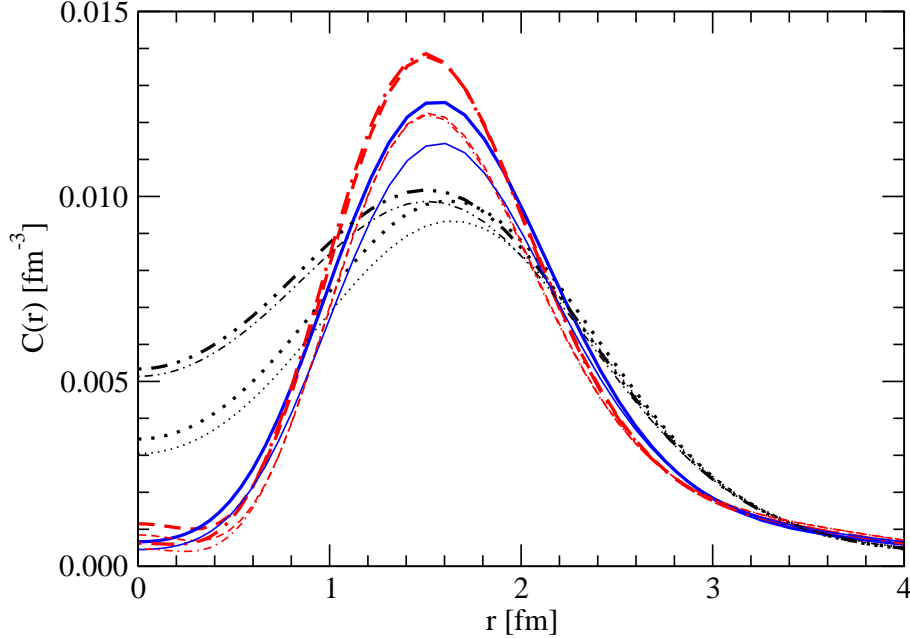


FIG. 6: (Color online) The two-body correlation function for the triton for different $(\Lambda, \tilde{\Lambda})$ pairs given in Tab. II. The thin dotted (black), dashed (red), solid (blue), dash-double-dotted (black) and dash-dotted (red) lines correspond to predictions based only on NN interaction with cut-off numbers from 1 to 5, respectively. The thick lines represent predictions with the same regularization parameters but based on NN and 3N forces.

correlations. The higher Λ values prefer distributions concentrated around the maximum at $r \approx 1.5$ fm. The effects of the 3NFs are small for the lowest Λ but increase with increasing Λ . For the lowest Λ there is also a strong dependence of the correlation function on the SFR parameter $\tilde{\Lambda}$.

VI. SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

In this paper we, for the first time, included the long-range $N^3\text{LO}$ corrections to the 3NF in the Faddeev calculations. These novel two-pion-exchange, two-pion-one-pion and ring interactions supplemented with the one-pion-exchange and contact terms emerging at $N^2\text{LO}$ represent, presently, the most advanced chiral 3NF. We use this force in the triton and the doublet neutron-deuteron scattering length Faddeev calculations to fix the two low-energy parameters c_D and c_E for different sets of regularization parameters, which cut off large-momentum or, equivalently, short-range components in the few-nucleon states. While the value of the LEC c_D remains fairly stable, c_E features a stronger sensitivity to regularization parameters. It will be interesting whether such a behavior is also seen for fits involving the complete $N^3\text{LO}$ 3NF. We also studied the individual contributions of the various topologies to the triton binding energy. The expectation values of the two-pion-one-pion and ring terms turn out to be smaller than the ones of the dominant two-pion-exchange 3NF for softer values of the regulator. Generally, all expectation values are found to be sizable. As expected, we observe a strong sensitivity of the expectation values to the regularization parameters. We also looked at the impact of the used 3NF on the two-nucleon

correlation function in the triton.

While our work does not yet correspond to a complete N³LO analysis due to the shorter-range contributions and relativistic corrections to the 3NF which are not yet available and are still missing in our calculations, it does represent a very important step in this direction and provides a proof-of-principle that the very complex operator structure of the 3NF at N³LO can be successfully implemented in few-body calculations. In the future, this study should be extended to explore effects of the novel terms in the 3NF in few-nucleon scattering. This work is in progress. To complete the analysis of the 3NF at N³LO the inclusion of full structure of shorter-range $V_{1\pi-cont}^{(1)}$, $V_{2\pi-cont}^{(1)}$ as well as $V_{1/m}^{(1)}$ terms should be pursued. The numerical implementation of the new terms can be straightforwardly performed using the newly developed aPWD scheme, which is successfully tested for the long-range terms in the present study. Finally, it should be emphasized that the present work also opens the way for applying the novel chiral nuclear forces in many-body calculations, see e.g. [35–37] for some exciting recent developments along these lines based on N²LO 3NFs.

Acknowledgments

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